

ROCKHOUNDING, METAL DETECTING, AND PLACER OPERATIONS

Below are the requirements and restrictions for collection of hobby and decorative rock, mineral and fossil collecting, and recreational placering. Persons conducting recreational mineral activities must respect the rights of mining claimants. Contact the BLM concerning the presence or absence of mining claims in your area of interest. Placer operators are responsible for obtaining any necessary permits from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and/or the Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety.

NON-MOTORIZED MINERAL ACTIVITY			
Activity	Description	Action You Need to Take	Activity is Allowed on:
Mineral Materials	Any amount See Policy for Common Variety Mineral Materials	A Contract or Permit is required. Contact the local office for permit.	All San Juan Public Lands except Wilderness Areas and withdrawn lands.
Rockhounding	Collecting rocks, minerals, or invertebrate (non-bone) fossils for your personal hobby. Up to 60 pounds per person per year: More than 60 pounds per person per year:	No permit is needed. A Contract or Permit is required, except that a contract or permit is not required to collect up to 250 pounds of petrified wood per person per year from BLM lands. Contact the local office for permit.	All San Juan Public Lands except Wilderness Areas and withdrawn lands.
Metal Detecting	Using hand-held metal-detectors. To search for minerals or mineral material: To search for coins, historic items, treasure:	No permit is needed. A Special Use Permit is required. Contact the local office for permit. Treasure permits depend on the specific situation and are rarely issued.	All San Juan Public Lands except Wilderness Areas and withdrawn lands.
Panning	Using hand-held non-motorized implements to separate minerals from native material.	No permit is needed. Contact the BLM State Office concerning the presence of mining claims.	All San Juan Public Lands except Wilderness Areas and withdrawn lands.
MECHANIZED/MOTORIZED PLACER OPERATIONS			
Motorized placer operations	Using motorized equipment (dredging, highbanking, trammel, etc.), For dredges with 3" intake or less: For greater than 3" dredge intake:	Placer Notification is recommended but not required. Placer Notification or Notice of Intent to Operate is required. Contact the local office 15 days in advance to check for mining claims or special situations in the area.	All San Juan Public Lands except Wilderness Areas and withdrawn lands.
Sluicing operations	Using a sluice box or riffle device of any length or width.	Placer Notification is recommended but not required. Contact the local office 15 days in advance concerning the presence of mining claims or special situations in the area.	All San Juan Public Lands except Wilderness Areas and withdrawn lands.